

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th May 1903.

## CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(d)—Education—concl'd.</b>	
Russia and Manchuria ... ..	461	Holding of examinations in the Medical College ...	463
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		The last B. A. Examination... ..	ib.
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		Mr. Pedler and the School-Book Society ...	ib.
The Court Sub-Inspector of Khulna town ...	461	Dr. Bedford and the First L. M. S. and First M. B. Examinations ...	ib.
The chaukidari-tax ... ..	ib.	<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>	
The chaukidar in the last Bengal Administration Report ... ..	462	Government and the prevention of malaria ...	469
The chaukidari system ... ..	ib.	A municipal complaint ... ..	ib.
The panchayet and the chaukidar ... ..	ib.	The question of appointing a District Engineer for the Mymensingh District Board ...	ib.
Use of false European names by patent medicine vendors ... ..	463	Water scarcity in certain villages in the Burdwan district ... ..	ib.
The post of Superintendent of the Detective Department of the Calcutta Police ...	ib.	The Khulna Municipality ... ..	470
A head-constable counting cattle in Naihati in the 24-Parganas district ... ..	ib.	Lightless lanes in Calcutta... ..	ib.
The case of a zamindar of Dinsajpur against the police ... ..	ib.	Obstruction of a footpath in Calcutta by fruit-sellers ... ..	ib.
Zulm in the collection of the chaukidari-tax ...	ib.	Scarcity of food and water in Bankura ...	ib.
Thefts in village Rudrakar, Faridpur ...	ib.	Water-scarcity in Bikrampur, Dacca ...	471
The chaukidars of Ramnagar, Midnapore ...	ib.	<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>	
The chaukidari tax ... ..	464	Survey oppression in the Midnapore khas mahals...	471
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>	
Supply of stamps to the licensed vendors in Manbhum ... ..	464	Oppression by a European employé of the Eastern Bengal State Railway ... ..	471
Criminal appeals in the High Court ... ..	ib.	A steamer complaint ... ..	ib.
The sequel of the Rajshahi case ... ..	ib.	A complaint against the booking-clerk at the Narain-ganj steamer station ... ..	ib.
Mr. Roe, the Sessions Judge of Burdwan ...	465	Unsatisfactory supply of drinking water on the Assam Bengal Railway ... ..	ib.
The District Magistrate of Murshidabad ...	ib.	A railway complaint ... ..	ib.
Trial of cases of natives <i>versus</i> European soldiers ...	ib.	The Howrah Bridge ferry ... ..	472
The sequel to the Rajshahi <i>Muharram</i> case ...	466	Railway complaints ... ..	ib.
Ditto ditto ditto ... ..	ib.	Tramway accidents in Calcutta ... ..	473
Ditto ditto ditto ... ..	ib.	A railway complaint ... ..	ib.
The Kajlagarh Registry Office ... ..	ib.	A railway complaint ... ..	ib.
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		Want of water-passages within the Contai subdivision ... ..	ib.
Treatment of Madan Gopal by the jail authorities	466	A hard case ... ..	ib.
<b>(d) Education—</b>		<b>(h)—General—</b>	
The last B. A. Examination ... ..	467	Postal communication with Bajitpur in the Mymensingh district ... ..	474
Commercial education ... ..	ib.	A postal complaint ... ..	ib.
The new Central Text-Book Committee ...	ib.	The price of Government quinine too high ...	ib.
Mr. Pedler's circular in favour of the School-Book Society ... ..	ib.	The postmaster of Sandwipa ... ..	ib.
		Undue favour shown by Government to the Eurasians ... ..	ib.
		Cholera in Bhagabanpur in the Midnapore district	475



	Page.
III.—LEGISLATION.	
Nil.	
IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Nil.	
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Scarcity and crime in a pargana in the Midnapore district ...	475
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The Magistrate of Backergunge ...	475
What are Indians to do? ...	ib.
The District Magistrate of Bogra ...	476
The proposed Kmpire day ...	ib.
The domestic servant question ...	477
Pratapaditya celebration in Calcutta ...	ib.
Calumnies against the Kayasthas ...	ib.
The native servant question ...	478

	Page.
URIYA PAPERS.	
Water scarcity in the Balasore district...	478
Rain in Talcher and Dhenkanal ...	ib.
A fire in Dhenkanal ...	ib.
Fires in the Cuttack district ...	ib.
History of Bengal substituted for History of Orissa in the Orissa schools ...	ib.
A resident of Balasore cheating people by professing to possess miraculous healing powers ...	ib.
Inconveniences of native passengers at the Kharagpur station of the Bengal Nagpur Railway ...	ib.
A road infested with robbers ...	ib.
Highway robbers in Dhenkanal ...	479
The administration of justice in Dhenkanal ...	ib.
The mehter strike in the Cuttack Municipality ...	ib.
Mr. Justice Rampaini's speech in the Indian Legislative Council ...	ib.
ASSAM PAPERS.	
The staff of the Silchar Zilla School ...	479
The degradation of two Police Sub-Inspectors ...	ib.



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that cunning Russia is playing various tricks with England with regard to Manchuria and making a dupe of her at every step. Is there such a dearth of politicians in England that there is none to see through Russia's intentions?

Russia and Manchuria.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. Referring to the transfer of the able Police Inspector, Babu Darpan Narayan Singha, from the head-quarters of Khulna to the Satkhira subdivision, the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 21st May says that Joges Chandra Das, Court Sub-Inspector, has been serving in the head-quarters for a longer time than Darpan Narayan Babu. Why has the latter then been transferred when the former remains in his place?

The Court Sub-Inspector of Khulna town.

KHULNA.  
May 21st, 1903.

3. In continuation of what has appeared in previous issues, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st May publishes two letters to the following effect:—

The chaukidari-tax.

SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1903.

(1) The collection of the chaukidari-tax in the Narayanpur village, under the Jhalakati thana in the Backergunge district, is attended with great oppression. The chaukidar's salary has been increased. The number of chaukidars has also been increased. The villagers are very poor, and yet they have to pay the tax at a high rate in order to meet the expenses thus enhanced, and no relaxation is made even in the most deserving cases. The chaukidars, however, do no work at all.

(2) A similar complaint is made regarding the collection of the tax in the Chandhat village, under the Ainpur thana in the Faridpur district, and a few instances are given of enhancement of the tax in the cases of old and incapable poor men and women.

4. The same paper says:—Besides receiving their pay, chaukidars receive rewards also from Government for their good acts. Government thinks that the prospect of rewards will stimulate them to do good work. But who is the man who keeps an account of their good acts, as also distributes the rewards? The answer to both the questions is—the *daroga*, because although it is the District Magistrate who is literally entrusted with the duty, it is the *daroga* who actually does it.

The chaukidar in the last Bengal Administration Report.

SANJIVANI.

We have been showing, week after week, that the people are dissatisfied with the chaukidar. To-day we will show that the Lieutenant-Governor also is not satisfied with him. The following appears in page 185 of the last Bengal Administration Report:—

“In Pabna, though 28 per cent. of the chaukidars were punished, only Rs. 979 were paid in rewards. Last year only Rs. 496 were so expended, and yet it appears that the funds closed with a balance of Rs. 7,823. The Commissioner has been asked to report whether this large balance is really due to the fact that so few of the chaukidars have merited rewards. In other districts though the sums credited to the Chaukidari Fund were large and the balances were altogether inadequate, the attention of the Magistrates has been called to the neglect of Government orders in these districts.”

This remark may mean either that the chaukidar is worthless, or that the Magistrate shows a remarkable stinginess in rewarding him. The latter alternative does not appear to be at all probable, because the Magistrate can have no interest in withholding from the poor chaukidar his due reward. The above remark therefore expresses the Lieutenant-Governor's dissatisfaction with the chaukidar's work. Government is sorry that respectable people do not now accept chaukidari service, but it should know that such people will never accept it. The only way to remove the complaint regarding the chaukidar's worthlessness is to place him under the villagers.



SAMAY,  
May 22nd, 1903.

5. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that though the appointment of village chaukidars, dafadars and panchayets and the supervision of their work nominally rest

The chaukidari system. with the District and Subdivisional Magistrates, pressure of other work leaves the latter little time to attend to these duties, which they leave entirely in the hands of the police. The result is that anybody who can please the Sub-Inspectors of Police, head-constables and writer-constables, no matter whether he is fit to be a chaukidar, dafadar or panchayet, succeeds in getting an appointment. The work of supervision also is gone through by the police in a similar manner. The chaukidars, dafadars and panchayets, who are most assiduous in their services to the police and can make them the most frequent presents of vegetables, fowls and kids, are spoken of as the best men. In fact, the sole duty of the village chaukidars now is to serve and humour the police.

The work of the chaukidars was better supervised and chaukidari oppression was far less frequent when chaukidars were under the control of village headmen and leaders of the village communities. The abuses and oppressions in connection with the chaukidari system have been aggravated since Government took the administration of the village police into its own hands. After taking away from the people all privileges of local self-government, which they enjoyed in District Boards and Municipalities, Government thought it unwise to leave even the administration of the village watch in their hands, and practically transferred it to the hands of the police. Government, it is true, is unwilling, from considerations of prestige, to admit the deterioration of the chaukidari service. But an enquiry into the hardships and oppressions which the village people have to suffer under the existing arrangement will leave no doubt in its mind about the inefficiency of the village police.

Since the chaukidari service has been brought completely under the control of Government, the cost of maintaining chaukidars, dafadars and panchayets should be paid by Government, instead of being realised from the people. The realisation of the cost from the people in the shape of the chaukidari-tax is a prolific source of oppression, inasmuch as there is no appeal from the panchayet's assessment of the tax, even in cases in which injustice has been manifestly done.

An East Bengal correspondent complains that chaukidars are never seen performing their duty of watch and ward, or doing the least service to villagers, whilst they are always assiduous in their services to Deputy Magistrates, District Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police. Yet the villagers are made to pay the cost of maintaining the chaukidars. Panchayets often realise from the villagers more than the tax lawfully due from them. As the remuneration of panchayets increases in proportion to the number of chaukidars employed, the panchayets make use of various tricks to employ the largest number of chaukidars permissible under the law. For this purpose, they, not unoften, show in their returns members of a joint family as so many different house-holders. Great injustice is also committed on the poor in the assessment of the tax. The correspondent earnestly requests Government to make an enquiry into the administration of the chaukidari system. Such an enquiry will convince it (1) that there is no need for chaukidars and panchayets in Bengal; (2) that chaukidars, dafadars and panchayets are inflicting great loss on the people; (3) that the amount of the chaukidari-tax is growing more and more exorbitant day by day, and (4) that the abolition of the chaukidari system will do more good than harm to the people.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 22nd, 1903.

6. A correspondent, writing from Rangpur in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May, says:—For the last eight or ten years the people of this country have been subjected to great hardship and trouble by the

The panchayet and the chaukidar. introduction of the system of union committees and village panchayets. There are people who spend hundreds of rupees to get elected as panchayets, in the expectation of earning money by oppressing the villagers. In the exercise of the powers with which they are vested by the law, these illiterate panchayets collect the chaukidari-tax in a most oppressive manner. If anyone fails to pay, his cattle or utensils are immediately seized. If the panchayet is displeased with anybody, he assesses his tax at twice or thrice the proper rate, and then realises it by attaching and putting up for sale almost everything that the



assessee can call his own. As for the chaukidars, they are never found to go on rounds through the mahallas. Thieves and bad characters are growing more numerous. Comparatively well-to-do villagers find it necessary to engage chaukidars on their own account. The panchayets do not supervise the work of the chaukidars properly.

As new men are shortly to be appointed in the place of the out-going panchayets in Rangpur, the authorities should see that the appointments are given to men who possess some education and sympathy with the villagers.

7. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that it seems to be believed by many vendors of patent medicines that to sell such medicines under assumed European names is not an offence under the law. But they forget that such sale might constitute false personation or cheating. As the mischief is on the increase, it is hoped that the attention of the Police Commissioner will be drawn to it.

NAVA YUG,  
May 23rd, 1903.

Use of false European names by patent medicine-vendors.

8. The same paper says that Inspector Ellis of the Calcutta Police has been temporarily appointed to act as Superintendent of the Detective Department in addition to his own duties during the absence, on leave, of Babu Krishna Chandra Bandopadhyaya. It would have been better if a native officer had been given the temporary appointment instead of Inspector Ellis, who has not yet been confirmed in the highest grade of the police service, inasmuch as natives, acquainted as they are with the manners and customs of the people, are more fitted for such a post than Europeans who have never been known to make a mark in the Detective Branch of the Police Department.

NAVA YUG.

The post of Superintendent of the Detective Department of the Calcutta Police.

9. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May hears that a head-constable is counting the heads of cattle in Naihati and its neighbouring villages in the 24-Parganas district. Is a "census of cattle" going to be taken?

BANGAVASI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

A head-constable counting cattle in Naihati in the 24-Parganas district.

10. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that Baharuddin Chowdhry, a respectable zamindar of Dinajpur, complained to the District Superintendent of Police that Babu Mathura Nath Rakshit, the Police Sub-Inspector of Chintamon, had compelled him to pay the bills of certain shop-keepers who had supplied that officer with provisions. The zamindar prudently kept the receipts of the shop-keepers with him. The Sub-Inspector thereupon searched the house of the zamindar in his absence on the pretext that a Peshwari was concealed in it, but really to get hold of those receipts. The case was investigated successively by two Deputy Magistrates, both of whom reported it as false. Baharuddin Chowdhury has consequently been prosecuted for bringing a false case. The case is still under trial. It is not likely that the zamindar, who is a respectable gentleman, should bring a false case. Besides, the receipts of the shop-keepers could not have been forged. The police have now-a-days grown so oppressive, that such cases should be carefully investigated.

BASUMATI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

The case of a zamindar of Dinajpur against the police.

11. Babu Nagendra Nath Chakravarti, writing in the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd May, says that the dafadar of his village, which is within the jurisdiction of the Chanchur Union in the Bankura district, one day entered his house in his absence with some chaukidars and tried to collect the quarter's tax from the females by force and abuse. After some time they proceeded to the house of one of his relations and began at once to put up his moveable goods to auction.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
May 23rd, 1903.

Zulm in the collection of the chaukidari tax.

12. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 24th May says that thefts have become very frequent in village Rudrakar, in the Faridpur district. The chaukidars, ever on the alert when the tax is to be collected, neglect their legitimate work.

DACCA PRAKAS,  
May 24th, 1903.

Thefts in village Rudrakar, Faridpur.

13. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 26th May says that there has been a failure of the crops in the villages under police-station Ramnagar for several years past. Severe scarcity prevails in those parts in consequence. The chaukidari-tax is levied with great *zulm*, in spite of the scarcity. Under the new *dafadari* system, their beats have been so distributed that chaukidars come

NIHAR,  
May 26th, 1903.

The chaukidars of Ramnagar, Midnapore.



on their rounds from villages one or two miles distant. The villagers often cannot know their chaukidars. The chaukidars neglect their duty, and consequently thefts are frequent. The raiyats are thus losing the produce of their fruit trees, which might have relieved their distress partially.

PRATIJNA,  
May 27th, 1903.

14. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 27th May mentions some instances of increased assessment of the chaukidari-tax in the villages of Dansi and Kottya under thana Domjur in the district of Howrah. But though the assessments have been enhanced, the panchayets and the chaukidars do not do their work properly, and thefts are very frequent in consequence.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

MANBHUM.  
May 12th, 1903.

15. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 12th May says that the supply of stamps to the licensed vendors is made only on two days in the week by the local Collectorate. This causes great loss to the vendors who, with their small capital, can buy at a time stamps sufficient to last them for only two or three days, after which, and until they can get the next supply, they are obliged to sit idle. The practice obtaining in other districts in regard to the supply of stamps to the vendors ought to be enforced also in Manbhum.

NAVA YUG,  
May 16th, 1903.

16. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 16th May writes as follows:—  
In a recent municipal appeal, in which Babu Harendra Nath Mitra, Vakil, moved the High Court, in behalf of Kabiraj Upendra Nath Sen of Calcutta, for a rule on the Municipal Magistrate of the town to show cause why a sentence of fine, which had been passed by him against the appellant, should not be set aside, Mr. Justice Rampini, the presiding Judge, said, after hearing the vakil for a while: "All these facts should have been brought before the Magistrate. How is it possible for us to try all cases occurring in the province?" People might be astonished to hear a wise Judge like Mr. Rampini uttering words like these. Mr. Rampini surely knows that a large proportion of the young English civilians, whom fate and competitive examination send to India, are devoid of all sense of what is right and honourable, and that these men when placed in charge of districts before they have gained a good deal of experience in their work, are capable of committing any kind of injustice without a moment's hesitation. Mr. Garrett and Mr. Roe, whose conduct in Puri and Rajshahi, respectively, has gained for them extraordinary notoriety, are living examples of this. Mr. Justice Rampini cannot deny that it is Magistrates like these who oblige people to seek the protection of the High Court oftener than is necessary or desirable, and consequently help to make the Court's file of criminal appeals and motions unduly heavy. In the above case it was not at any rate wise for him to make the remark referred to, as he had to grant a rule on the Municipal Magistrate of Calcutta. Owing to the large number of criminal appeals and motions in the High Court, Mr. Rampini's predecessors on the Criminal Appeal Bench, Messrs. Harington and Brett, used to reject 99 per cent. of appeals made before them. Many poor men, who risked their whole fortunes in order to get justice at their hands, returned home with tears in their eyes. If the High Court of the present day, being the highest tribunal in the land, had been as independent and anxious to maintain its prestige as before, Magistrates would never have been so arbitrary in their acts as they are now showing themselves—a Civil servant like Mr. Pennell would never have been dismissed, and a Magistrate of Mr. Roe's stamp would never have received charge of a first-class district like Burdwan, while there would have been fewer criminal appeals to claim the attention of the learned Judges. The action of Messrs. Harington and Brett in rejecting appeals on account of the largeness of their number could only increase the arbitrariness of Magistrates and help to make the file of criminal appeals in the High Court still more heavy by compelling people to seek its protection oftener than before.

SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1903.

17. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st May says that immediately after the transfer of Mr. Ryan's case against Pachai Shaikh and Shah Jaharul Hossein to the file of the Magistrate of Murshidabad, Mr. Ryan left for



England. Who was then to conduct the case in his absence? Why, his friend Mr. Roe. Mr. Roe made all necessary arrangements for conducting the case and himself appeared in the witness-box. But the question is whether the case could be allowed, under the law, to proceed in the absence of the complainant. Did Mr. Mehta, who tried the case, attend to this point?

In this case, which ought to have been dismissed on account of the absence of the complainant, Mr. Mehta has sentenced Pachai Shaikh to two years' rigorous imprisonment, and Jaharul Hossein, an old man of 70, to one year's rigorous imprisonment in addition to a fine of Rs. 1,000, in default of which the old man is to undergo imprisonment for another term of six months. Under this sentence of Mr. Mehta's, the jail will prove the old man's grave. The sentence has taken the whole country aback.

18. The same paper says that Mr. Roe, the Sessions Judge of Burdwan, disagreeing with the verdict of the jury, sent to the High Court the records of the case in which one Rajani Kuar was accused of murder. The Sessions Judge had relied on the confession made by the accused before Babu Mahendra Nath Gupta, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Kalna. The Hon'ble Justices, Messrs. Rampini and Handley, however, could not find the deposition of the Sub-Deputy Magistrate in the records sent. Mr. Roe was wired for and personally gave his explanation before the Hon'ble Justices. It appeared that the confession was recorded by the Sub-Deputy Magistrate in the map of the place of occurrence prepared by him. The Hon'ble Justices have ordered the Sub-Deputy Magistrate to be examined in the presence of the accused and his pleader under section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Such irregularities on the part of a Sessions Judge are unprecedented. All this comes of appointing junior members of the service, having imperfect knowledge of law, as Sessions Judges.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that the arbitrary and whimsical acts of Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Murshidabad, have made it difficult for his subordinates to continue in service under him. Many of the *amla* and Deputy Magistrates subordinate to him have been obliged to take leave. Recently, he has brought about the dismissal of the able and popular District Engineer, Nava Kumar Chakravarti. Wherever Mr. Carey goes he persecutes his *amla*. The authorities should teach him a lesson for such habitual misconduct on his part.

20. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that Lord Curzon has earned the gratitude of every Indian by expressing a sincere solicitude for the protection of the Indian people's lives and limbs from the attacks of Europeans, both Civil and Military. But, unfortunately, His Excellency's efforts in this direction have not only made himself incur the displeasure of the European community, but have made the Europeans, and especially the Military, more turbulent and oppressive than before. The Civil Courts, as a rule, inflict very light punishments on European soldiers accused of killing or causing hurt to natives—punishments which are calculated to have more an encouraging than a deterrent effect upon the culprits. The writer is disposed to think that better results could be expected in such cases if they were tried by Military, instead of Civil Courts. When a European soldier is hauled up before an ordinary court of the country for killing, oppressing or causing hurt to a native, it is natural for his fellow military men, high and low, to feel their pride wounded and, without paying any heed to the gravity of the offence, they all feel a sympathy for the offender, and do their best to get him anyhow out of the clutches of the law. But the trial of a European soldier before a Military Court is not calculated to wound either the soldier's own or his fellow military men's pride or to interfere with their sense of prestige as military men. Nay, in such a trial, the accused soldier's fellow military men are rather likely to help in the detection and punishment of crime, and will certainly not be sorry to see an offending soldier punished for his offence by a court of their own. There is one thing more to be said against Civil Courts, and that is that they never dare to inflict heavy punishments on the Military. Lord Curzon should try this as a last remedy for checking the oppression of natives by European soldiers.

SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1903.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

SAMAY,  
May 22nd, 1903.



BANGAYASI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

21. The *Bangayasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that the case in which Shaikh Pachai, Digar and Zaharul Hossein, the Honorary Magistrate of Rajshahi, were charged with giving false evidence in the Rajshahi *Muharram* case, was tried before Mr. Mehta, Joint-Magistrate of Lalbagh, Murshidabad. Mr. Ryan, the District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi, who is the complainant in the present case, is now in England. But it was proceeded with in spite of the complainant's absence. Pachai Shaikh has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and Zaharul Hossein to one year's rigorous imprisonment and to a fine of Rs. 1,000, or in default to undergo six months' additional imprisonment. Many have been greatly pained to learn of this extremely hard sentence passed on an Honorary Magistrate who is 70 years old.

BASUMATI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that the judgment in the case against Pachai Sheikh and Zahurul Hossein of Rajshahi has caused the greatest astonishment. It cannot be expected that Zahurul Hossein, an old man of 80 years who has recently lost a son, will ever return from the jail alive.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 25th, 1903.

23. Referring to the sentence of imprisonment and fine which has been passed on Pachai Sheikh and Shah Mazharul Hossein in connection with the Rajshahi *Muharram* case, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th May writes as follows :—

In spite of any thing that the Judge, who has passed the sentence, may have said, people will never believe that a common man like Pachai Sheikh could bring a false case against a mighty and invincible District Superintendent of Police, specially when Mr. Lee, District Judge, said in his deposition that Pachai had shown burns on his person immediately after the occurrence of the *Muharram* riot. Pachai had no enmity against the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Ryan. What could then be Pachai's motive in bringing a false case against him? Mr. Roe says that he did it at the instigation of Mr. Lee who, it is said, had a quarrel with Mr. Ryan. But whoever has had the privilege of knowing that good and noble-minded gentleman, Mr. Lee, will say that he is incapable of such baseness. Again, if what Mr. Roe says is true, how is it that such a dangerous man as Mr. Lee is still suffered to rule, as a District Judge, the destinies of the Jessore district? And why did not Mr. Ryan proceed against him? Shah Mazharul Hossein said, in his defence, that he had never made contradictory statements, but that Mr. Roe's want of good knowledge of Bengali led him to commit serious mistakes, and in support of this contention Mr. Hossein cited a case in which Mr. Roe had shown his remarkable ignorance of the language. Mr. Hossein's contention is also proved by a case which is pending in the High Court and in which the Honorable Judges think that Mr. Roe has committed serious mistakes in making a summary of a Sub-Deputy Magistrate's deposition. Would the sentence have been so severe if Mr. Ryan had been the accused person? Alas! such is the kind of justice which obtains in India!

NIHAR,  
May 26th, 1903.

24. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 26th May says that 400 to 500 people come to the Registrar's office at Kajlagarh every day. Sometimes people come from distances of 12 to 13 miles. The severe scarcity prevailing in these parts has largely increased the number of documents to be registered.

Persons with deeds for registration have sometimes to wait for two or three days before they can get them registered. To remove this inconvenience a Registrar ought to be stationed at Bhagabanpur, which is 7 miles distant and which already contains a police-station and a post-office.

(c)—Jails.

BANGAYASI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

25. The *Bangayasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May points out the difference between the treatment accorded by the Jail authorities to Madan Gopal, the zamindar of Malda, and that accorded to Mr. Bain of Siliguri, who was accused of murder. While being transferred from Malda to the Alipur



Jail, Madan Gopal had to appear before a crowd in his jail clothes; while under similar circumstances respect was shown to the rank and position of Mr. Bain. Of course, under the jail regulations, Madan Gopal had to wear the jail clothes—yet, why this difference?

(d)—Education.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 20th, 1903.

The last B. A. Examination.

May says that the result of the B. A. Examination has been very bad this year, only a small number of candidates having been successful. This is due to the objectionable nature of the questions set, some of which could not be easily understood, while others shewed that the examiner himself had not carefully gone through the texts. All this emphasises the necessity of a reform of the Syndicate.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st May says that arrangements have

SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1903.

Commercial education.

been made in the Presidency College, Calcutta, for teaching book-keeping, type-writing and short-hand writing. In the English literature department letter drafting, precis-writing, &c, will be taught. Such an education can make students only fit for clerkships in mercantile firms, it cannot enable them to earn their livelihood by engaging in commercial pursuits and as such will prove but of little use. It should also be considered whether the students thus educated should be given the same privileges as those who pass the First Examination in Arts of the University. The latter can study for pleadership or enter the Medical College, while the former should not be allowed to do so. These arrangements are laying the axe at the root of University education.

28. Referring to the constitution of the new Central Text-Book Commit-

SAMAY,  
April 22nd, 1903.

The new Central Text-Book Committee.

tee, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May fails to see what led the Government to appoint Syed Asrafuddin, Matwalli of the Hooghly Imambarah, and Maulvi Vilayet Hossain as members of the Committee. The writer does not object to their appointment on the ground of their being Musalmans, but because he fears that they have no experience in educational matters, and that they are not men who are expected to give their free and independent opinion in matters which come under the deliberation of the Committee. The appointment of two independent spirited Musalmans connected with educational work, instead of the two gentlemen named above, would have given satisfaction to the public.

The Committee has also been made to contain seven official and two non-official European members. Would it not have been better to appoint a fewer European members on a Committee which will have to select text-books only for the vernacular schools? Probably these members were appointed, at the suggestion of the Director of Public Instruction, in order that they might support Government and the arbitrary doings of its high officials. Where would the glory of British rule be, if the commonest Committee for selecting school-books did not contain an excess of Europeans? Only one native member has been appointed from a private college. But it would certainly have been better if two native Professors from the City and Ripon Colleges had been appointed instead of Mr. Begg and Dr Morrison? Perhaps Government could not do this for fear of losing its prestige.

The constitution of the Bihar and Orissa Text-Book Committees also shows a predominance of *zubberdust* official members. As for the few non-official members the Committees contain, they are all men who are always given to flattering the Government and who will be sure to bring into disgrace the name of non-official member. The truth is that Government does not appoint independent and out-spoken men as non-official members, for fear it would not always get their support.

Was any advice of Lord Curzon's trusted Educational Conference at work in determining the constitution of the Text-Book Committees?

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May stigmatises as unjust and

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

Mr. Pedler's circular in favour of the School-Book Society.

unworthy the action of Mr. Pedler in issuing a circular, directing all Inspectors of Schools under him to try to secure a wider sale for the School



Book Society's shop in Calcutta. There are hundreds of good book-shops in Calcutta, which cannot but suffer loss owing to such circulars as the above.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

30. Referring to the holding of an oral re-examination of the fifth-year students of the Calcutta Medical College in

Holding of examinations in the Calcutta Medical College.

Hygiene, the same paper writes as follows:—

The Medical College authorities have done a grave injustice in this matter. Who was the person who committed the mistake or wrong which necessitated the re-examination, and what was the mistake or wrong? If there was anything wrong in one day's examination, why were all the fifth-year students re-examined, instead of those only who had been examined on that day? Was not the mistake or wrong detected before the examination of the students on all subjects was over? Who is responsible for the loss and suffering caused to them through the fault of examiners and others? Was the notice of re-examination sent to the residence of every examinee? What is to be done for those students who left Bengal after the first examination, and were thus unable to appear in the re-examination? It is also said that there will be an oral re-examination of third-year students in Materia Medica. Again, some of the questions on Pathology for the fifth-year students were set from books outside their prescribed course of study. When will such examination scandals cease? The attention of the Viceroy is drawn to the matter.

BANGAVASI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

31. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that as the B. A.

The last B. A. Examination.

is the most important examination of the University, the object of this examination should be to

test whether or not the candidates have been truly educated, whether or not their memory and ratiocinative and esthetical faculties have been properly developed. But the existing system of examination which compels the students only to memorise hardly leads to the attainment of that object. Even memory thus forced to do excessive work, deteriorates.

Instead of seeking to find out whether the students have comprehended the sublime truth of life and the out-pourings of a great heart which are embodied in poetry, the examiners often put questions which serve no useful purpose. One examiner could do nothing better than require the candidates to name the poets mentioned by Wordsworth in his poem "Hogg." As regards Shakespeare, what the examinees are required to explain are not his various transcendental excellences, but obsolete words, intricacies of grammar, different readings of the text, parallel passages and detached extracts. One examiner asked the candidates to give the opinions of the different critics about the appearance of Lady Macbeth. Another required them to prove from Macbeth that Shakespeare had actually visited Scotland. Another again required them to prove that Shakespeare was a good lawyer. In prose also, similar questions are set.

The questions to be answered within the time allowed are often too many. To be able to answer them well, the students have no other way but to memorise.

To learn a thing by heart is not necessarily bad. But to learn a thing by rote like a parrot to the neglect of all other faculties and to the detriment of health is greatly to be deprecated.

BANGAVASI.

32. The same paper says that the Director of Public Instruction has

Mr. Pedler and the School-Book Society.

requested the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division, to see if he can promote the sale within his jurisdiction, of certain books which have

accumulated in the hands of the School-Book Society. People are commenting upon the favour thus shown to the Society by Mr. Pedler to the exclusion of all other book-sellers.

BASUMATI.  
May 23rd, 1903.

33. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that Dr. Bedford,

Dr. Bedford and the First L. M. S. and First M. B. Examinations.

Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, Calcutta, was an examiner in the First L. M. S. and First M. B. examinations. He finished the oral and the practical examination of 160 students in one day!

This was a rare and heroic achievement. The papers submitted by the 160 students in the written examination were examined by him in two days! This was more than man can do, yet Dr. Bedford did it. He had to do it because



he had to leave for England shortly, and money was badly wanted. After Dr. Bedford had left for England, the Syndicate sent the answers-papers back to Dr. Bomford for reexamination, and has issued a notice stating that an oral and practical examination will be held again. The notice is not likely to reach all the students, many of whom have gone to different places in the country. Those who will get the notice will have to undergo the double labour of appearing twice at the same examination. Will Dr. Bedford be held responsible for all this?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

34. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th May says that the Government, willing as it always is to help the people if help can be rendered without expense, has circulated in many places a vernacular version of certain instructions issued by the Inspector-General of Hospitals for the prevention and the cure of malarial fever. After referring to the language of this version, which is characterised as anglicised Bengali, the writer proceeds to observe that, sharing the view held by the majority, the Government believe in the mosquito theory of malaria. But formerly, when malaria was not so prevalent, the mosquitoes prevailed as much as now. Poverty is a much more potent cause of malaria than mosquitoes.

Government and the prevention of malaria.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 13th, 1903.

Patients have been advised to sleep within curtains having small meshes to prevent mosquito-bites. But what are they to do while walking or eating; and how are curtains to be found for everybody? The patients, specially when they are children, are to be segregated in separate rooms. But will not the patients suffer very much for want of attendance, specially when they are children? Quinine or cinchona febrifuge has been recommended. The public have also been carefully reminded that this quinine or cinchona febrifuge is available in post-offices. As prevention is better than cure, the public have been advised to try their best to prevent malaria by filling up all dirty pools, ditches, and reservoirs of water and kill the mosquitoes by pouring kerosine oil on all stagnant water, which is the favourite haunts of the anopheles mosquitoes. But is the overtaxed public to do all and the Government nothing? All this requires expense.

35. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 16th May says that the unhealthy condition of the Patna Municipality deserves the serious attention of the local municipal authorities. A municipal complaint. The street-watering is very imperfect; the street light-posts are placed at a great distance from one another, so much so that when the shops are closed, the whole town is dark. Almost all the streets require thorough repairs.

AL PUNCH,  
May 16th, 1903.

36. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th May says that the District Board of Mymensingh was to have considered at its last sitting the letter that had been addressed to it by the Government on the selection of a District Engineer. But the non-official party having mustered strong, the consideration of the matter was got postponed to the next sitting. It is argued by the official party that as the Mymensingh District Board has the largest income of all District Boards in these Provinces, it should have a first-grade District Engineer. It is to be observed, however, that there being no difficult engineering works under the control or management of the Board, there is no necessity for its entertaining a first-grade Engineer. What is required is that as Mymensingh is an extensive district, there ought to be two second-grade Engineers in the Board's service in order to secure an efficient supervision of the work of the contractors.

The question of appointing a District Engineer for the Mymensingh District Board.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 19th, 1903.

37. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 19th May says that there is severe scarcity of water in certain villages under thana *Satgachi* in the Burdwan district. There has not been good rain in these parts for the last three years. In some villages drinking water has to be brought from neighbouring villages, in others all the villagers have to use the scanty supply from a single pond. There has been consequently a fearful outbreak of cholera. The village *Kastha Kuramba* has been almost depopulated, a hundred and

Water-scarcity in certain villages in the Burdwan district.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 19th, 1903.



twenty-five persons having died from cholera in this village. It is hoped that the attention of the District Board will be drawn to the matter.

KHULNA,  
May 21st, 1903.

38. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 21st May writes as follows:—

We are not at all sorry that the Lieutenant-Governor has refused to grant the inhabitants of Khulna town the privilege of electing their Municipal Commissioners. To this attitude we have been led by the conduct of the leading public men of the town. Recently one Babu Bipin Bihari Sen, the Chairman of the Municipality, leaving the town on some business the Vice-Chairman, Debendra Babu, acted in his place. During this time the District Magistrate asked the Officiating Chairman to send him, within three days, a list of names from which he might nominate Commissioners for the next year, and Debendra Babu accordingly prepared a list. Last year in spite of there being no want of good and able men in the Bayra, Shekhpara, Baniakhamar, Sutpara and some other villages under the Municipality, not even one Commissioner was nominated from them. But in his list Debendra Babu requested the District Magistrate to nominate a Commissioner from each of the villages. As a matter of fact this was the practice before Bipin Babu's time. But this practice was departed from when Bipin Babu became the Chairman. The Commissionerships of the Municipality became the monopoly of pleaders and Bipin Babu's men, however ignorant they might be of local matters. However that may be, having received information of Debendra Babu's list, Bipin Babu hastened to the town and somehow prevented it from reaching the District Magistrate's hand. Debendra Babu wrote to the District Magistrate on the subject. On this Bipin Babu wrote to the District Magistrate that Debendra Babu had antedated his letter, and referring to a mysterious confidential letter which Bipin Babu had written to the District Magistrate three years ago sent him a list prepared by himself. The majority of the names given in this list consists of pleaders who have no local knowledge or who are not the inhabitants of the place. Bipin Babu being himself a pleader wishes the Municipal Board to be filled with pleaders. None of the inhabitants of the villages referred to above have been recommended. On the other hand, Babus Kunja Bihari Chakravarti and Kunja Bihari Mukharji, pleaders, have been recommended for the Baniakhamar and Sutpara villages, but these men have not the least knowledge of those places. The District Magistrate is requested to carefully consider the matter.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that there is not even

Lightless lanes in Calcutta.

an oil lamp in a narrow lane issuing from Barranasi Ghosh's street, Calcutta. This makes the lane a very good lurking place for thieves. The number of such lightless lanes is not small in Calcutta. The Municipal authorities should see that such lanes are lighted before they try to turn Calcutta into a paradise.

BHARAT MITRA,  
May 23rd, 1903.

40. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May complains that the foot-

Obstruction of a footpath in Calcutta by fruit-sellers.

path of the portion of Harrison Road near the Howrah Bridge is so fully occupied by fruit-sellers that wayfarers cannot pass through it. It is said that they give something in the shape of rent for the place they occupy in the footpath. But who it is to whom they give it? The authorities are requested to direct their attention to the matter.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
May 23rd, 1903.

41. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd May says that severe

Scarcity of food and water in Bankura.

scarcity of water is being felt in Bankura town. As the town is very poor, either the Local or the Supreme Government ought to remove the scarcity. The cutting away of the numerous *sál* forests is principally responsible for the present deficient rainfall. These forests ought to be preserved either by farming them out to zamindars or by holding them khas. Severe scarcity of food also prevails in many parts of the district. The crops have not been satisfactory for three successive seasons. The people have been reduced to great distress. There is no prospect of relief works being opened. For such works are always preceded by test-works. None will be found to come to these works, as the labourers have gone out of the district after having sold their goods and cattle. The house-holders will consider it too much beneath their dignity to avail themselves of such State relief. The District Magistrate



called a public meeting in the local school-house. But the donations subscribed to at that meeting have not been satisfactory.

42. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 24th May says that severe water-scarcity is being felt in the villages Nagarbhag and Jaratia in Vikrampur, Dacca. The prolonged drought has had the effect of drying up some tanks, while others are in need of repairs. The intense heat has scorched up the fields newly sown with paddy.

DACCA PRAKAS,  
May 24th, 1903.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

43. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says:—  
Abdul Khalif, one of the surveyors, who have been engaged to make a cadastral survey of the Midnapore khas mahals, is committing great oppression on the inhabitants of some of the villages in the Dor pargana. Accompanied by a band of followers, he appears in a village and exacts money from the villagers by means of threats and intimidation. If any poor man fails to supply rations to him and his men, the surveyor reports against him to the Survey Superintendent, complaining that that man obstructed him in the discharge of his duty. Thereupon the Superintendent calls the man to his office and realises from him Re. 1-4 as process-fee. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

44. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th May says that on the 18th March last the Loco. Foreman at the Rajbari station of the Eastern Bengal State Railway while in a drunken condition severely beat and otherwise oppressed a woman, who used to sell betel at the station. It is strange that although this class of European employes have become a danger to the public, the Railway Conference at Delhi deliberately urged their employment in the railway service to the wholesale exclusion of the natives of the country.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 20th, 1903.

45. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 21st May complains of the want of a waiting-room for steamer passengers at the steamer ghat in Khulna town. This causes the greatest inconvenience and hardship to both male and female passengers.

KHULNA,  
May 21st, 1903.

46. A correspondent describes in the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st May the trouble and hardship to which he and many other respectable persons were subjected on the 6th April last in getting themselves booked at the Narainganj steamer station. The booking-clerk issued tickets to those passengers first who bribed him through a back door. It is believed that the booking-clerk purposely puts the passengers to trouble in order to secure bribes.

JYOTI,  
May 21st, 1903.

47. The same paper observes that there is no good arrangement for the supply of drinking water at any station from Chandpur to Chittagong on the Assam-Bengal Railway. The want of water is severely felt by the passengers in this hot weather. The railway authorities are requested to attend to this complaint.

JYOTI.

48. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May draws the attention of the authorities of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to the cruel treatment to which third class passengers intending to travel by the Madras mail train are subjected by the Railway Police and the railway employes at the entrance to the Howrah station platform. They are made to enter the platform by means of an extremely narrow door, and are then made, in large numbers, to wait within a narrow enclosure till their tickets are checked. Not unoften passengers are even whipped by the

SAMAY,  
May 22nd, 1903.



police in their passage through this door and enclosure. Great inconvenience is also suffered by passengers for the paucity of carriages in the Madras mail train. The writer, therefore, requests the authorities to increase the number of carriages in this train, to admit third class passengers to the platform by one of the bigger gates, and to see that passengers are not unnecessarily harassed by the police or the railway employes.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903.

49. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May asks why native gentlemen wearing *dhuti* and *chadar* are not allowed to go up to the upper-deck of the Calcutta Port Commissioners' ferry steamer which plies between Howrah and Calcutta when the Howrah Bridge is closed to traffic.

HITAVADI.

50. The same paper publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) In the Santabar Junction station, on the Bogra-Santabar Branch Railway, passengers are allowed to occupy seats in the carriages in the morning train from at least two hours before it starts. But the carriages are lighted only 8 or 10 minutes before its starting time, 4 P.M., so that great inconvenience is caused to passengers in taking their seats in the dark. Lights should be provided from the time they are allowed to enter the carriages. Female passengers coming by the Bogra line have to enter into their waiting-room in the station by a door which opens into the waiting-room for third class male passengers, which generally remains packed with men in train times. The waiting-room for females should, therefore, be provided with a door which will face the Bogra line, just as it has a door which faces the male line in the station.

Every train on the railway contains only one intermediate class carriage. But considering the largeness of the number of intermediate class passengers on the line, the number of such carriages should be increased.

(2) Babu Baidyanath Acharyya, writing from Sujatpur, Sylhet, says that the station-master of the local railway station obliges people to sign their names in the godown receipt-book before they are allowed to see the goods, delivery of which to them is presupposed by the signatures. On the 1st May last it was with great difficulty, and not until he was ready to telegraph the matter to the Railway Joint-Agent at Chhatak, that the station-master consented to show him his *mahajan's* goods before he signed for them in the receipt-book. Recently, while among a wagon-load of oil canisters coming in the name of Babu Navakishor Ray, a *mahajan* of the local bazar, two of the canisters were found to have been tampered with and filled with water, the station-master denied every responsibility for it. A strict order should, therefore, be issued directing him never to press people to sign receipt-books and bills before showing them their goods.

(3) Babu Purna Chandra Chakravarti, writing from Titagarh, says that recently he missed No. 34 down train at the Titagarh railway station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, because he could not book himself, although he had arrived there when there was enough time to purchase a ticket and catch the train. Passengers never get tickets in the station within the two or three minutes before the starting of a train, though the booking office is opened only a few minutes before its arrival at the station. Again, goods trains frequently lie on the line which runs to the local mills, obstructing the public road which leads to the railway station. People, specially women, frequently miss trains on account of this.

(4) Babu Sures Chandra Das Gupta, writing from Calcutta, says that on the 8th April last Kaviraj Jogendra Nath Vidyabhusan of Calcutta sent by railway parcel a seer of Kabul pomegranates to Amrita Lal Gupta in Bogra, but the parcel never reached the Bogra station. The pomegranates were for a patient suffering from a serious illness. Their loss, therefore, caused a good deal of inconvenience.

(5) A correspondent says that on account of the smallness of the number of carriages in the Madras mail train, great rush occurs in the Howrah station among passengers intending to travel by it. In the midst of this fearful and dangerous rush, police constables mercilessly belabour them with canes. Again, passengers have to enter the platform by a circuitous way. The number of carriages in the train should be increased, and another passage should be provided for passengers to enter the platform.



51. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that tramway accidents are not always due to the rashness of the ignorant tramway employes and assigns the following causes for the frequency of these accidents:—

RANGALAYA,  
May 24th, 1903.

- (1) Entering and leaving the cars while in motion.
- (2) The great difficulty that is experienced in finding out the destinations of the cars until they come quite close to intending passengers and the hurry thus caused.
- (3) The passing of the cars too close to the main-line posts in the Chitpore Road, so that passengers while alighting often get themselves violently struck against them.
- (4) The stopping of the cars at certain places marked on the posts, which makes the conductors drive the cars too fast in order to make up the time lost in these stoppages.

The Calcutta Tramways Company may prevent the frequency of the accidents by adopting the following suggestions:—

- (1) Entering or leaving cars while in motion should be prohibited by law.
- (2) The destinations of the cars should be written thereon in Bengali as well as in English; arrangement should be made for the better lighting of the cars so as to make these writings visible at night and the cars should be distinguished by cross-signs or otherwise.
- (3) The posts on the Chitpore line should be moved further away from the track of the cars.
- (4) The cars should not be stopped except at the places where they are marked to stop.

52. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that there is a great want of third class accommodation in the local trains (Nos. 26, 28 and 6 down) that reach Sealdah

PRATIJNA,  
May 27th, 1903.

A railway complaint.

between 9 and 11 A.M. Persons who come to office from the suburbs being mostly third-class passengers are thus put to great inconvenience. The complaint should receive the attention of the railway authorities.

53. A correspondent of the same paper says that quite recently he saw the man who supplies passengers with drinking-water at the Baliganj station giving it to two Hindu women out of a jug touched and defiled by a European. Surely somebody ought to be charged with the duty of attending to such matters.

PRATIJNA.

A railway complaint.

54. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th May says that year after year fields are submerged in water and the crops destroyed within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district through want of proper water-passages. But Government is quite indifferent in this matter in spite of the repeated petitions of the inhabitants of the subdivision.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
May 27th, 1903.

Want of water-passages within the Contai subdivision.

55. The same paper says that on the 17th January 1901, Mr. Samman, the then District Magistrate of Midnapore, passed the following order on a petition which had been submitted by Gobardhan Panda and others of Dikhali and other villages under the Khajuri thana, praying for the construction of a sluice-gate in the embankment No. 45 at its 15th mile:—

MEDINI BANDHA .

A hard case.

“Inform petitioner that the clearance of silt and also the construction of sluice cannot be done unless Rs. 1,825 be deposited and that no cut will be allowed in the embankment till this be done.”

On this the poor villagers deposited Rs. 1,825 on the 3rd September 1902 and waited for the removal of a bitterly felt want. But Gobardhan Panda has recently received a notice from the local Deputy Collector to the effect that Rs. 1,006 more should be deposited. This notice has come like a thunder-bolt upon the poor villagers. It was with great difficulty and not without having recourse to the money-lender that they paid Rs. 1,825. Where will they get Rs. 1,006 more? Again, there was no mention of the latter sum in Mr. Samman's order. The authorities are therefore requested to take a generous view of the situation.



(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 19th, 1903.

56. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th May says that letters from Calcutta, Dacca, Sylhet and Comilla reach Bajitpur very late. Letters from Sylhet and Comilla come *via* Narainganj in five or six days, although these two districts are very near. Such letters ought to come *via* Brahmanbaria, Asuganj and Bhairab Bazar. They would then reach within two or three days without putting the Postal Department to any additional expense. There is no reason why the Postal authorities should not accept this reasonable proposal.

CHARU MIHIR.

57. The same paper says that letters for village Pandidha, Kisoreganj in the Mymensingh district are delivered by a peon from the post-office at Darzi Baju kutchery twice a week. The peon comes only on the market days, and often delivers the letters to persons other than the addressees. Many letters are thus lost. The services of this man should be dispensed with and another appointed in his place.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 20th, 1903.

58. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th May says that the British Government has made the utmost endeavour to grow cinchona in Sikkim, and has also incurred a large expenditure for the purpose. Quinine being a necessity to the malaria-stricken people of India, the Government has done well in attempting to supply them with quinine of indigenous manufacture instead of importing it from other countries. Unfortunately in spite of its persistent efforts in this direction, it has failed to compete with the foreign manufacturers. Although the indigenous quinine has been introduced into the hospitals, it has failed to command an extensive sale in the market. It is not so efficacious as quinine of foreign manufacture and often causes troublesome brain disturbances. The quinine being not good the price charged is too high, and Government cannot be regarded as a benefactor of the people when it sells them 5-grain packets at a pice each. In view of the large profits accruing to the State year by year from its quinine trade, the public may not unreasonably expect to be supplied with a 20-grain packet for the price now charged for one containing only a fourth of that quantity.

JYOTI,  
May 21st, 1903.

59. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st May complains that the postmaster of Sandwipa, Babu Hari Mohan Ganguli, comes to his office at about 1 P.M., does not receive money-orders after 3 P.M., and makes those who go to transact business wait too long. Postage stamps and post-cards are not available in time. The Divisional Superintendent of post-offices is asked to make an enquiry.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1903

60. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May writes as follows:—  
Native signallers served with great credit and showed remarkable courage and dutifulness at the time of the Ghona deluge and in the Lushai expedition and the Delhi Darbar. But when the time came for paying Rs. 2 extra per day to such signallers as had done active service on these occasions, the authorities did not remember them at all. Since then the matter is under the consideration of the Government of India, which has not yet decided it. Colour plays an important part in the distribution of house-allowances also, natives never receiving such allowances. It is contended in favour of European and Eurasian signallers that they are given house-allowances because they find greater difficulty in hiring houses than natives do and their expenses are larger than those of natives. This is not a fair contention, for one's private expenses and other concerns do not fall within the province of Government's examination or enquiry. It has only to see whether one receives a fit return for the work one does. Again, even those European and Eurasian signallers, who live in their own houses or make a profit by letting out portions of their houses, receive house-allowances. Names of such officers may be given if required. But poor native signallers receive no house-allowances even if they live in rented houses. In the Delhi Darbar although they



did much better work than European and Eurasian signallers they received neither house allowances nor diet money, both of which were given to the latter. This is not all. When the native signallers were sent to Delhi they were transferred to the general scale, but as soon as the Darbar was over they were made to revert to the local scale. It is not in the Telegraph Department alone that this partiality for Eurasians prevails. It is observable in every department of the Government, it is discernible in the acts of the Government of India itself.

Do what you like but do not try to beguile people by professing impartiality. Trample, if you like upon, every rule and order in order to maintain your Eurasian hangers-on, but do not think that we understand nothing. We do not like that native officers should maintain their relations in their offices and we wish to see a little strictness on the part of the Government in this matter, but the same strictness should be adopted in the case of European and Eurasian officers also. It should not be an offence for a native officer to give his son or son-in-law a post so long as European and Eurasian officers exercise their patronage in favor of even such men as happen to be sons of their sons-in-law's *khansamas* and *memsaheb's* washermen, not to speak of their own relations. Let there be one rule for all and let ability be the test everywhere.

61. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 26th May says that severe epidemics of cholera often break out at Bhagabanpur in the Midnapore district. Fever also claims many victims. The Government ought to keep a doctor permanently at this place.

*NIHAR*,  
May 26th, 1903.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

62. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th May says that severe scarcity of food and water prevails in the Brahmanbhum pargana in the Midnapore district. Dacoits are setting fire to houses almost every night and taking away everything on which they are able to lay their hands. *Mahajans* have closed their *golas* of paddy so that people are not getting it in the market.

*MEDINI BANDHAV*,  
May 27th, 1903.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

63. In a highly eulogistic letter on Mr. Beatson Bell, the Magistrate of Backergunge, a correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 20th May dwells on his many noble qualities of head and heart.

*KASIPUR NIVASI*,  
May 20th, 1903.

64. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st May has the following:—

*SANJIVANI*,  
May 21st, 1903.

What are Indians to do? The officials, it is clear, are making, openly or covertly, every possible attempt to employ Europeans in the public service in preference to natives. Nor is such an attempt confined to official Europeans: the European heads of private or semi-official offices also are found extremely willing to show such preference. It was not, however, so before. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that in a circular of 1879 Government directed the employment of natives in high offices in the Railway Department. Formerly the services of natives were highly valued in the mercantile offices also, whereas at present natives are treated there as dogs and cats. Some even go so far as to say that the European merchant does not treat his native clerk even so well as he does his dog. This, however, is more injurious to Englishmen than to natives, for service done under the consciousness of slight and hatred is not done in a spirit of devotion but rather in a spirit of gross selfishness.

As things stand at present, there seems to be no remedy for this evil. Government does not trust us and we are hated as cats and dogs in mercantile offices. On streets Europeans insult us on every possible occasion. In railways they refuse to travel with us in the same carriage. They rupture our spleens and get off with a penalty of Rs. 25 or so. They refuse to live in the same locality with natives. While such is our situation in our own country, it is even worse in the Colonies. Australia has resolved to have nothing to



do with ships that have Indian lascars on them. The colonists are unwilling even to walk along the same street with Indians. Alas! that Indians should be a mark for such scorn in British India! We are insulted in our own country and persecuted in foreign countries. Where are we to turn to then? Again, the Anglo-Indians are making it impossible for us to earn our daily bread by the sweat of our brow. We therefore ask Government, what are Indians to do under these circumstances?

There is one solution of this difficulty. We may escape all troubles by dying in a body. And such is the resolute determination with which Europeans have entered upon this crusade against natives that we are not likely to remain long in the land of the living.

So long as we depend entirely upon Government, so long, we are afraid, shall we continue to be treated in this way. If, in these days of terrible competition, we cannot stand on our own legs, there is nobody that can save us. Our officials are Europeans and, as such, it is natural that they should shew preference for Europeans. We may regret this, but cannot resent it with good reason. If we can stand to-day on our own legs, there will be a change in our condition to-morrow.

And is it impossible for us to stand on our own legs? What is there that is wanting to us? India is rich in every sort of hidden wealth, mineral or otherwise. Let us but extract that hidden wealth by our efforts, and our misery will be at an end. Do we keep any account of the many thousands of acres of land that are lying waste in our country? Our cotton, silk and jute are enriching foreign merchants? Cannot these then enrich ourselves? James Babu says in his invaluable "Economic History of India" that the English administrative policy is responsible for the decline of Indian trades and industries. Cannot we, by our efforts, revive them again? Let not Government employ us in its service if it is bent upon excluding us from it. Let us all help ourselves resolutely. If Englishmen do not respect our honour on streets, how should we respect theirs? Things have come to such a pass that we ought no longer to remain idle. We ought to depend upon ourselves. The day that we come to trust ourselves, the door of our progress will be opened.

HITAVADI,  
May 22nd, 1908.

65. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd May says that an enormous sum of money was realised from poor Bogra people for the celebration of the Coronation festivities. The District Magistrate of Bogra. They cried themselves hoarse over the matter, but the officiating lord of the Belvedere heeded them not. The case would have been quite different if Sir John Woodburn had been living at that time. Emboldened by the silence of the higher authorities, the District Magistrate and his sycophants have determined to devote the surplus of the Coronation festivities fund amounting to Rs. 42,000 not to any work of public utility, such as establishing charitable dispensaries, removing water-scarcity, constructing roads or encouraging indigenous arts and industries, but to the erection of a clubhouse. Is this not anarchy?

Again, the District Magistrate is trying to stifle local self-government in Bogra town by depriving the Chairmanship of the local municipality of its popular and non-official character and making it entirely official. He is trying to force all influential Commissioners of the Municipality to vote in favour of his cherished object. It is rumoured that he went so far as to threaten a zamindar for refusing to give him his support. The zamindar fearing lest he should be harassed by the District Magistrate applied for permission to vacate his seat on the Municipal Board, but his application was rejected, because if he had resigned the District Magistrate would have lost one vote. The Bogra people should set up a violent agitation against the District Magistrate's conduct in this matter.

BASUMATI,  
May 23rd, 1908.

66. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that to the Indians loyalty to the sovereign is not identical with loyalty to the Empire. Loyalty to the sovereign does not necessarily imply loyalty to the Empire. Had Lord Meath proposed to increase the number of festivals having for their object the demonstration of loyalty to the Emperor, the proposal might have obtained public support. But it is clear that many in India and in England will be unable to support or join the



proposed festivities for celebrating the Empire. It would be better not to have any Empire Day for celebrating the glories of the Empire, for it is wiser not to praise where there is the risk of meeting with disparagement.

67. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that the Anglo-Indian

BANGAVASI,  
May 23rd, 1903.

The domestic servant question. community has set up a violent agitation against native servants on the alleged ground of their wickedness. Some are indignant, some are portraying dreadful pictures, some again are describing their wrongs in plaintive terms. Mr. Jackson, who has caused three of his servants to be imprisoned, has written a letter to the *Englishman* newspaper in which he describes in detail how his servants conspired to break his head and actually boycotted him by preventing all persons from entering his service. On reading the letter, one cannot help realising the sad and sorry plight to which Mr. Jackson was reduced. What Mr. Jackson says might be true, yet one may not unreasonably hold the opinion that his case furnishes a particular and rare instance of the wickedness of native servants, and that the generality of servants may not be as wicked as they are represented to be. During the troublous times of the Sepoy Mutiny, the natives who did not join the mutineers showed unflinching loyalty to their European masters. The writer quotes numerous passages from historical works and mentions numerous instances taken from history, to illustrate the unswerving fidelity with which the natives served their foreign masters during those dreadful days, sometimes getting as their reward only blows, contumely and insult. Why should the servants now grow so impertinent and wicked, when there is peace in the land? Have the servants themselves suddenly become wicked, or is it that they are not satisfied with their pay? or is it that the blows, contumely and insult to which they are subjected have now become too much for them to bear? No legislation is likely to cure the alleged evil, for it will be sure to prove as ineffectual as the existing law for preventing the adulteration of milk.

68. The same paper says that a unique celebration having for its Pre-

BANGAVASI.

Pratapaditya celebration in Pratapaditya, the hero of Bengal, in the premises of the South Suburban School, Bhowanipur.

There were sword and *lathi* plays, boxing matches and gymnastic feats. Four silver medals were awarded by the President.

BANGAVASI.

69. The same paper says that the Government does not seem to have been well-advised in conducting its enquiries for the purpose of ascertaining the social status of the Kayasthas. After having set up a quarrel between

Calumnies against the Kayasthas.

two respectable castes in these provinces, it took up a neutral position and held itself aloof. The Kayasthas have actually been very much aggrieved in consequence. Not to speak of the various aspersions made through the other party which have sufficiently been protested against in the *Kayastha-Patrika*, Mr. Gait, the Superintendent of the Census Operations, has in his own report stated that there has been a good deal of admixture of Sudra, Mlechcha and Mag blood amongst the Kayasthas of Eastern Bengal, and that the Barendra Kayasthas were originally Kalitas.

The Hindus, who are very sensitive in matters affecting the honour of their castes, are greatly pained to notice such unfounded calumnies contained in what purports to be official reports. Such calumnious statements should therefore be immediately expunged. In the Shastras Kayasthas are found engaged in keeping accounts, collecting revenue, &c. In literature one finds them assisting the Brahmin judges in the administration of justice. In history and edicts they are referred to as ministers for foreign affairs, and even as feudatory chiefs. Kayasthas enjoy ascendancy in matters temporal much like the Brahmins in matters spiritual even at the present time. To the south of the Nerbudda the Kayasthas are the masters, in the Punjab the Lodas are the leaders of society, and in all commercial countries the Kayasthas with the merchants hold the chief power. In Bengal Kayasthas, like the late Rajah Radhakanta, were the leaders of society. Successively, several Kayasthas have become Judges of the High Court. The Government ought to spare such an important class acute mental pain by directing the immediate removal of the objectionable allegations from the Census Report.



HINDI BANGAVASI,  
May 25th, 1903.

70. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th May says that the native

The native servant question.

servant question is exercising the minds of a good many European gentlemen. It seems that they have got very angry with the native servants on account of their misconduct. They say that the native servants have grown very impertinent. But why is it so? Is this to be attributed to the spirit of the age or to the ill-treatment they receive at the hands of their masters? It is said that the native servants are now even more cruelly treated by their European masters than they were before the Sepoy Mutiny. The writer cannot say whether the cause of the disobedience of the native servants is to be found in the ill-treatment by their masters or in the smallness of their wages or in something else. But this much is certain that they are most poorly paid. Their pay ought to be increased instead of a law being made to check their alleged impertinence.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
May 14th, 1903.

71. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 14th May and the *Uriya and*

Water scarcity in the Balasore district.

*Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th May state that the weather is very warm and that there is great scarcity of drinking water in many parts of the Balasore district.

GARJATBASINI,  
May 16th, 1903.

Rain in Talcher and Dhenkanal.

72. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 16th May says that there were a few showers of rain in the Talcher and Dhenkanal States.

GARJATBAS NI.

73. The same paper states that a great fire broke out in Parjangbis in Dhenkanal, which burnt down many houses and destroyed much property.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
May 16th, 1903.

74. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th May says that many houses were burnt down in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district and in Khannagar, a suburb of the Cuttack town.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
May 14th, 1903.

History of Bengal substituted for History of Orissa in the Orissa schools.

75. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 14th May regrets to observe that the educational authorities have, for the sake of uniformity, expelled the History of Orissa from the curriculum of vernacular schools in that Province, substituting the History of Bengal in its place, and hopes that the Orissa public will bring the matter to the notice of the higher authorities.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

76. The same paper draws the attention of the District Magistrate of Balasore to the conduct of one Baidyanath Sahu, a resident of mauza Kesarpur in thana Soro in that district, who professing himself to be endowed with miraculous powers and the blessed art of healing diseases, invites thousands of men and women to place themselves under his influence and thereby earns a decent living. The writer is of opinion that this cheat must not go unpunished.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
May 6th, 1903.

Inconveniences of native passengers at the Kharagpur station of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

77. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th May is sorry to state that the inconvenience of passengers at the Kharagpur station of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is very great. The third class passengers, who are compelled to tranship at the Kharagpur junction are detained there for a long time. While there they find no water to drink and the only well that is provided there for their convenience has no water in it. They thus fall an easy prey to cruel mercenaries, who sell water of very bad quality at a high rate, while the poor among them undergo excruciating torture from unquenchable thirst. The writer observes that this state of things is simply scandalous, and that the higher authorities must intervene in the interests of humanity.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

78. The same paper says that the road between Baripada in Mayurbhanj and Balasore is infested with thieves and robbers and that travelling by it has become unsafe. The Balasore and Mayurbhanj Police are exhorted to see that the security of life and property is enjoyed by those who may have occasion to use this road.



79. The *Gurjastbasini* [Talcher] of the 16th May states that Babus Gobinda Ballav De and Srinibash Singh of the Angul State while at Bangursinga in Dhenkanal were pursued by robbers, who attempted to stone them to death, and observes that the Dhenkanal authorities must try their best to keep the Dhenkanal roads free from these outlaws.

GARJASTBASINI,  
May 16th, 1903.

80. The same paper observes that the administration of justice in Dhenkanal is not fair and refers to the case of a Gauduni in mauza Kakadasarada in Pajangabisa, who though innocent and pregnant was made to undergo rigorous imprisonment by false evidence of the police supported by a false certificate from the local doctor, for while it was made out that she had destroyed her unborn child, it was afterwards ascertained in the jail that she had not done so.

GARJASTBASINI.

81. Referring to the strike of mehters and mehtranis in Cuttack in the current month, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th May says that the Cuttack Municipality should deal with them fairly and make regular payments of their salaries. As the conservancy of the entire town is in their hands, it is necessary that the Municipality should at once attend to their grievances, if there are any.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
May 16th, 1903.

82. Referring to the speech of the Hon'ble Justice Rampini in the Indian Legislative Council, the same paper observes that it has commended itself to the entire Indian community as it has dealt with true facts. The writer agrees with the speaker that young and inexperienced men should never be placed in charge of districts. The District Judge and the District Magistrate should, as a rule, be experienced officers of many years' standing. In this way the number of official vagaries that come up before the High Court may be considerably lessened, and thereby the High Court and the general public saved from much trouble and expense.

UTKALDIPIKA.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

80. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 14th May says that the additional teacher of the Silchar Zilla School is the son-in-law of the Head-master. The temporary sixth teacher is of the same caste as he. The temporary seventh teacher is his near relative, and bears the same name with him, a fact which often leads to the growth of friendly relations in this part of the country.

SILCHAR,  
May 14th, 1903.

The Director of Public Instruction should not permit four near relatives and friends to work together in a school, which is a Government institution. The rules of transfer may be usefully enforced in this case.

84. The same paper says that Babu Kailash Chundra Sarma, the Police Sub-Inspector of Barakhala, undertook a police investigation in accordance with a request made in two letters written to him by Mr. Cursnow, the Manager of Shubhang tea-garden. The papers submitted by the Sub-Inspector contain the statement that he had received the second letter at Barakhala, whereas he had actually received it at the Shubhang garden. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Johnston, has degraded him for this offence. Mirza Abdul Karim, the Sub-Inspector of the Katigara station, who is a very polite man, has also been degraded for a slight fault. Mr Johnston is a very strict officer. But such strict methods as are followed by him are not the rule in Cachar. The offences of the two Sub-Inspectors are due to their ignorance of Mr. Johnston's methods. Instead of degrading them Mr. Johnston should have let them off with a censure.

SILCHAR.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 30th May, 1903.

Offg. Bengali Translator.



